

ideal manner (*hear, hear*) and have held the scales of debate evenly between the official and the non-official sections of this House. (*Hear, hear.*) I thank you, Sir, sincerely for the considerations and weight that you have bestowed upon our joint deliberations inside this Council.

Sir, you have laid us all under a very deep debt of thankfulness for the very best way in which you have uniformly conducted our proceedings for the last 11 days. Thanking you once again I resume my seat.

Concluding remarks by the President.

President.—Members of the Legislative Council,

We have now reached the end of a long and strenuous session, and it remains for me to bring our proceedings to a close by making a few observations. Let me at the outset congratulate you all on the very dignified way in which you have conducted the deliberations of this somewhat taxing session. I am glad to observe that, if I have not mistaken the signs, we are all moving in earnest towards that co-operation to which His Highness, our revered Maharaja, referred in His gracious message. For all these my sincere thanks are due to you. (*Hear, hear.*)

Now, turning to the actual business we have transacted, it is my pleasant duty to offer my felicitations to the Finance Member for the budget he presented and the able way in which he did it. It is not always the good fortune for a Finance Member to present a prosperous budget. Our friend has been consistently lucky in that respect. No doubt, the accumulated surplus of the State has come in for its share of criticism. But it has, however, to be remembered that the normal and legitimate demands of the State, so far as they could reasonably be anticipated, have not been sacrificed to produce this result. In regard to countries endowed with more elastic sources of revenue and greater financial credit, such criticism may be more appropriate. But, placed as we are, I doubt whether we could safely see how we could eschew the necessity of a substantial surplus altogether. Moreover, this is not the growth of a day; it is the outcome of a cautious policy pursued for a course of years; and in view of the costly schemes of development in which we shall have soon to engage ourselves, this surplus, which after all amounts only to one year's revenue, cannot, you will agree with me, be said to be none too large.

In the course of the general discussion of the budget and the voting of demands, representations have been made from different quarters of the House on a variety of subjects, such as,

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greater irrigation facilities, increased food production, encouragement of industries, and so on. At present, I shall only say that these and other allied problems are, as the budget indicates, receiving the anxious attention of the Government, and will continue to receive it. And I have no doubt that, in the development of the country, the Government will have the practical and statesmanlike advice and co-operation of this House. (*Hear, hear.*)

In regard to the several cuts carried out in this House in the course of the scrutiny of demands for the grants, I note they amount approximately to about 2 lakhs of rupees. I gladly recognise that they have been carried by a majority after due deliberation and never with a view to obstruct the Government. (*Hear, hear.*) These cuts will receive at the hands of the Government the consideration they demand, and I can assure you that in their disposal it will be the earnest endeavour of the Government to rigorously follow the principle (*hear, hear*), enunciated by the permanent Diwan-President, namely, that no restoration will be resorted to unless where it is absolutely necessary. (*Hear, hear.*)

I want you to permit me to tarry a while on one or two topics more. References were made in the course of the general discussion and in the debates on demands for grants to social disabilities, representations in public service and to corruption in it. May I request you to look around and to look beyond and say whether our conditions are as desolate as you seem to depict? I emphatically say no. You know that there are no differences of opinion on fundamental principles in matters like these. His Highness is with us, the Government is with you and the enlightened public too. Every one is for social reform on rational lines for a proper, efficient, and satisfactory recruitment to appointments, and for stamping out corruption, where and when it exists, with an iron hand. (*Hear, hear.*) In so far as our State is concerned, there can be no doubt that a forward movement is largely welcomed (*hear, hear*), and much has been accomplished here though unostentatiously in this direction in an incredibly short period. Aided by these wholesome influences time will again, I hope, sooner rather than later, complete their social reconstruction which, as is evident from the Proceedings of the Council, is so near to every one of us. (*Hear, hear.*) And, if, at times, you think that the Government is moving slowly, or you misunderstand the motives of the Government, it is because you are not in possession of all the facts, or that you do not fully realise the anxiety and responsibility of practical administration.

And after all, constituted as we are with different communities with varying shades of culture and of conflicting interests, is it not better to hasten slowly? That will do away with irritation, that will give us more time to think and act. Worldly wisdom and experience in practical politics also make us all, I tell you, unfit to be crusaders. But, for these reasons, I do not want you to stop your constitutional agitation. (*Hear, hear.*) Only let the battle be for causes and not for or against persons.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Certainly not, Sir.

President.—Let it be for the efficiency and for the elevation of the national life, not for promoting any class hatred or the claims of communities much less of individuals for preferences and promotions to offices. (*Hear, hear.*) There is what is called realism even in the realm of politics, and we would be classed not wise anyhow, if we are found ploughing the sands of the seashore always. This leads me to another subject. The primary object of the establishment of this Council is to take counsel with the representatives of the people. The feeling that the official Members are not entirely co-operating with the non-official side, if allowed to grow, would only tend to enshroud our work in an atmosphere of suspicion and defeat the very object of this noble institution. (*Hear, hear.*) Indeed, there cannot, broadly speaking, be any legitimate privacy about public matters of Government. Public business is public business; and it is the duty of every responsible servant of His Highness, consistently with public interest, to explain in this Council to the representatives of the people, whenever properly requested by them to do so, matters on which they have a right to ask for enlightenment. (*Hear, hear.*) No atmosphere is so wholesome as the atmosphere of publicity. Let us welcome honest criticism; let us live in its clear and invigorating light. (*Hear, hear.*) I must also point out that it will not be conducive to the promotion of a spirit of harmony and co-operation, if non-official Members on their part often question the good faith of their official brethren, if they think that they are here to break them down in a bit of cross-examination or to lower the dignity of their officers in the estimation of the public, much less, if the bellows are kept blowing, to revive the embers of *waning* animosities. (*Hear, hear.*) I pray you all to always remember that we are comrades, and that our destination is identical. If you do that, you will be able to bear and to share the trials of the road with perfect good cheer. (*Hear, hear.*)

One word more. You have made a demand for enlarged constitutional rights and privileges. It is but a sign of the times. We are indeed fortunate that we have, in our Gracious

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Maharaja, a ruler gifted with a keen constitutional outlook and full of love and solicitude for the welfare and prosperity of the people. This Council, as you all know, is a spontaneous gift from His Highness to His people. (*Hear, hear.*) The Proceedings of this Council are being sedulously watched by His Highness, and you, who know His Highness' inclination on the subject, need no assurances from me that, if you will work the constitution vouchsafed to you as a generous gift in the right spirit, His Highness will not hesitate to satisfy all your legitimate aspirations. (*Hear, hear.*) The future is with you. May that be a glorious one is my wish and my prayer. (*Hear, hear.*)

It would ill-become me if, before I sit down, I do not give expression to the feelings of my sincere gratitude for the kind words you have spoken of me and for the willing and hearty help one and all of you have given me in the discharge of my duty. (*Hear, hear.*) And here I note with genuine pleasure the work of the Progressive Party. It is a power to be reckoned with in the deliberations of the Council (*hear, hear*), and, if worked on sound and farsighted principles, as I am sure it will be, it will be a power for great good, especially as the Party consists of able and experienced patriots. (*Hear, hear.*) Let us also take this opportunity to congratulate the Member of the Backward Classes over the rigorous fight he is putting in for his constituents. I assure him that his cause is ours, for unless those classes also come up, we cannot have a healthy body-politic.

Members of the Council, I prorogue the Council; and in doing so, I wish you a very hearty good-bye. (*Hear, hear and loud cheers.*)

The Council was prorogued and the meeting came to a close at 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.